

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 - 20 were originally pending in this application. In response to the most recent Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 14, and 20 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 4, 12, and 13 have been cancelled. Thus claims 1, 5 – 11, and 14 - 20 remain in the application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Anticipation

Claims 1 – 3, 11, 12, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,668,995 to Janson. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every element of the claim can be found in a single reference. Each and every element of amended claims 1, 11, and 20 cannot be found in the Janson '995 patent. Accordingly, applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

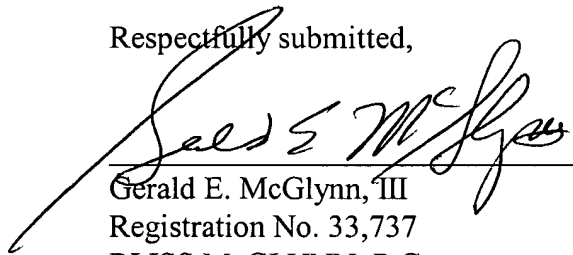
On the other hand, the Examiner indicated that claims 4 - 10 and 13 – 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the Examiner's comments in mind, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly describe the invention and to include structure formerly set forth in claims 2, 3, and 4 (now cancelled). Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to more particularly describe the invention and to include structure formerly set forth in claims 12, and 13 (now cancelled). In addition, claim 20 has been amended to more particularly describe the invention in such a way so as to clearly define it over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as described in independent claims 1, 11, and 20, as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Janson '995 patent. Claims 5 - 10 and 14 - 19 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claims 1 and 11 respectively and add further perfecting limitations. As such, the prior art references in combination or each reference standing alone do not suggest the subject invention. However, even if they did, they could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosure of the prior art in view of applicants' invention. A combination of the prior art in this way to derive applicants' invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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